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Salaries of regional chair, councillors to remain unchanged; page 15

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# INPORT NEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 3 VOLUME 15

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■ **NOT SUSTAINABLE:** No funding

## Wainfleet to kill Big Pipe bylaw

DAVE JOHNSON  
 InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET— The township will ask Niagara Region to help implement a fix, replace, repair solution for failing septic systems along the lakeshore area.

see WAINFLEET page 2

■ **OPPOSING VIEWS:** Opponents and proponent speak

## Concerns aired out about proposed wind farm



DAVE JOHNSON  
 InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Wainfleet could join a growing list of municipalities asking the province to impose a moratorium on wind farms.

Ald. David Wyatt made a notice of motion at last Tuesday's township council meeting after three different people spoke about Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. and its proposed wind farm.

Wyatt's motion will come forward at the Jan. 25 council meeting.

Resident Andrew Watts was the first to speak about the wind farm, marking the second time he's appeared before council on the issue.

"The Green Energy Act is based on a fantasy and based in fallacy. No country that has tried wind farms has found them to be successful," said Watts.

see WINDFARM page 2

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo  
 John Andrews, president of IPC Energy, speaks to Wainfleet council. IPC is the developer of a wind farm for Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. He was at the meeting to address concerns raised by residents and Skydiver Burnaby.

See Inside:  
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# Councillors hear opposing viewpoints

FROM PAGE 1

"There's something wrong with the alternative energies they are trying to push on us."

Not only are there 70 municipalities in Ontario asking for a moratorium on wind farms, but Denmark is no longer building onshore wind farms. Watts said Denmark is held up by the wind industry as an example of a place where wind farms work.

He said the country has between 4,000 and 7,000 wind turbines, but public opposition to them is growing.

And while setbacks from homes in Denmark and other places in Europe are two to three kilometres onshore, in Ontario it's only 550 metres.

Watts said if independent studies showed wind farms were safe for humans and the environment, he would be the first one in favour of them.

Mike and Tara Pitt, owners of Skydive Burnaby, told council they weren't opposed to green energy, but were worried about two proposed turbines near their business.

"They, too, asked council to vote for a moratorium on wind farms."

The Pitts explained how 80% of the time jumpers from their club leave planes west of the field, which would take them over the turbine towers



**DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo**  
Skydive Burnaby owners Tara and Mike Pitt talked about their concerns over two proposed wind turbine towers west of their club at Wainfleet council.

proposed for Station Rd.

"Our jumpers would be within 150 metres to 350 metres above the turbines and blades," said Tara Pitt.

She said if a jumper experienced a problem with a chute, that person could collide with the turbines or

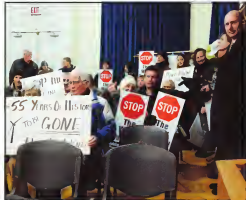
crash into the ground trying to avoid them.

IPC Energy president John Andrews was the last to speak on the issue. IPC is the company developing the wind farm in Wainfleet on behalf of Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., owned locally by the Loeffen

family.

Andrews told council he wouldn't even begin to address issues brought up by Watts.

"It would take me an hour and a half to repudiate what he brought up," he said, adding there is a lot of junk



**DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo**  
About 50 supporters of Skydive Burnaby came to Wainfleet council to listen to club owners Mike and Tara Pitt talk about their concerns over proposed wind turbine towers.

science out there when it comes to wind farms.

Andrews said the company has taken the Pitts' concerns very seriously.

"We had planned for more turbines closer to the club, but when the Pitts expressed their concerns, we moved them."

While talking to council, Andrews presented a few slides that showed the direction of wind off of Lake Erie. It showed the wind coming more from a southwest direction, than from the west, where the two towers would be located.

**Ongoing concern:** Skydivers continue to voice their concerns. See story, photos on page 3.

Council heard that if IPC was in violation of any Transport Canada rules regarding obstructions near skydive facilities, it would have heard something by now.

"We have applied to all relevant agencies and have had no negative feedback to date from anyone," said Andrews.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

## WAINFLEET

# Residents made their feelings known during the election: Konc

FROM PAGE 3

"The Region has an opportunity to help the township to be a leader in the area of on-site treatment systems," said Ald. Betty Konc.

The alderman put forward the motion on the water-sewer issue — the Big Pipe — last week, after giving notice two weeks ago that she would do so.

"Lakeshore residents have been under the threat of a pipeline for the last six years and need to have some relief from that. We all campaigned to do something about this, now it's time to go down to business and do something," said Konc.

In her motion, she asked staff to bring forward a bylaw to repeal Bylaw No. 020-2005.

T b a t bylaw supported the implementation of a preferred solution set out in the Wainfleet lakeshore water and wastewater servicing class environmental assessment document.

She said the preferred solution — the Big Pipe — was based on the assumption of federal, provincial

and regional funding.

"The Big Pipe solution does not appear to attainable within a reasonable time frame, largely due to a shortage of funding."

Konc said, as she read off her motion, residents made their disapproval known during the election and the township also had a petition with more than 900 signatures against the proposed pipe.

Her motion directed township staff to start investigating an on-site remedial action plan that will provide an affordable solution to aging and failing private septic systems that will meet environmental and health

standards.

While supporting Konc's motion, Ald. Ted Hessels wondered if the motion shouldn't cover just the area under a boil water advisory.

Konc said the boil water advisory area and the proposed servicing area under the Big Pipe were two separate and distinct areas.

The servicing area, she said, would cover the entire lakeshore area of the township, and be south of the Gord Harry Trail, the old rail line that passes through Wainfleet.

"I was thinking the boil water advisory would clear all the areas," said Hessels, who asked if the township

would get a clean bill of health if the failing septic systems were fixed.

S e c o n d Luey, the township's chief administrative officer, said it was debatable when a clean bill of health would come in.

He said talks with regional staff have indicated it could be between four and 11 years for underground aquifers to regenerate themselves and for the water to

become clean again.

"The underground aquifer could be a bigger area than where the septic systems are failing. Septic systems failing in a smaller area could pollute a larger area."

Luey told council, in response to a question from Hessels, that Konc's motion, which passed unanimously, would be sent to regional staff Wednesday and then it would be in "their court."

He said regional staff would decide to continue on with Big Pipe studies, follow Wainfleet's request or do nothing at all.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca



Betty Konc



Ted Hessels

# portraits

■ **CRITICS:** Prove us wrong, they say

## Meeting critical of wind turbines

ALLAN BENNER  
InPort News Staff

**WAINFLEET** — If huge industrial wind turbines are really as safe as the companies building them say they are, John LaForet wonders why those same companies are so averse to the idea of independent scientific studies to support those claims.

The solution to the issue is pretty simple, said LaForet, who is president of provincial lobby group Wind Concerns Ontario. He said if the wind generation industry "doesn't want to believe what we're saying, let's agree to disagree and have an independent third-party study" to prove once and for all whether the 400-foot-tall wind turbines popping up across Ontario have adverse effects on health.

His group asked wind industry representatives if they would agree to such a study.

"They refused. Independent science, apparently, is a problem," he said.

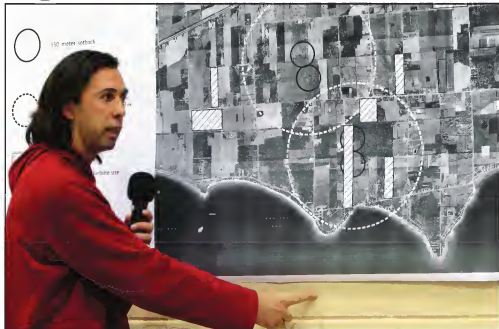
"Just do the science, prove us wrong."

LaForet said his group is asking for a moratorium on further wind turbine installation until that research is done.

LaForet was in Wainfleet last Saturday morning to discuss plans by various companies to build industrial wind turbines in the township, including two on Station Rd., three more on Brava Rd. and several others throughout the community.

Close to 200 people made their way through a snowstorm to spend about three hours discussing concerns during a meeting organized by Mike and Tara Pitt, owners of Skydive Burnaby.

Cam Pritchard and Neil Switzer from the West Lincoln Wind Action Group, an organization fighting plans to install industrial wind turbines that Niagara community, were also at the meet-



Wainfleet skydiver Mike Fenton refers to a map as he explains the dangers facing skydivers if wind turbines are built near the Skydive Burnaby parachute club.



John LaForet

ing, along with members of Wainfleet Township council, Welland MPP Peter Kormos and the riding's member of Parliament, Malcolm Allen.

**T**w o wind turbines are proposed for Station Rd. by Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc., a partnership

between IPC Energy Inc. and Loeffen Farms Ltd., a few kilometres west of Skydive Burnaby.

The Pitts said if those two wind turbines are built it will mean the end of their business and a drop zone for

parachuting that has been in use for more than 50 years. Tara Pitt said the skydivers that use their facility usually jump from planes on the far side of Station Rd. and the wind blows them back to Skydive Burnaby as they descend.

If the wind turbines are built, those Skydive Burnaby jumpers would be expected to descend over a 122-metre-tall wind turbine, rotating at speeds up to 200 km/h, and that "is of grave concern" to Tara Pitt.

"Not only are (the skydivers) our customers, but they're tourists who come here and they're our friends."

She said she finds it "appalling" that the company representatives said they've listened to concerns raised by the business, "and we feel

you are a non-issue."

"As a community, I think we need to come together and support one another to figure this out," she said. "There has to be a solution that we can all live with."

Meanwhile, LaForet said the provincial Green Energy Act has taken away the abilities of municipalities to control where the wind turbines will be located, and that is having a devastating impact on residents as well as businesses across Ontario, such as Skydive Burnaby.

In addition to IPC, St. Catharines-based Rankin Construction has also applied for permission to build wind farms in Wainfleet over the past few years.

Jordan Beekhuis from Rankin attended the meeting in the hope of discussing

the issue with the developer's perspective. He said he visited Spain to talk with people about the wind turbines that were added in their communities.

He said people in Spain had no complaints, adding that they told him they suffered no ill-health as a result of the structures.

"Obviously, I disagree with a lot of the conclusions that (Wind Concerns Ontario) have come to. I think renewable energy is important from an environmental perspective," he said.

Beekhuis was concerned that no one from the wind-energy industry was invited to speak at the meeting.

"I'm a little distressed that it's as one-sided as it is at this meeting," he said.

LaForet told him the meet-

ing was being held to allow residents to discuss their concerns about industrial wind turbines.

"The reason we have to hold these on the weekends is to counter the spin of your industry's lobby. Even if your company is an honorable wind developer, you're in a very messy industry. I don't think this is going to be the right venue for you."

LaForet said before the rest of his comments were drawn out by applause.

LaForet read an e-mail sent to him from IPC president John Andrews in response to information posted on the Wind Concerns Ontario website.

"The e-mail reads, 'I'm tired of your organization misleading the public with propaganda that has no relation to reality. This latest drift about \$4,000 a year electricity bills is just one more demonstration of the real agenda of your organization. If you really think that the government is lying about the benefits of the Green Energy Act, do you think telling another lie is the best way to deal with this? Unfortunately, reading your presentation is 10 minutes of my life I will never get back. However, it just confirms that you are an uneducated bunch of self-indulgent bullies.'"

LaForet read a second e-mail Andrews sent to the Pitts when he learned about their plans for the meeting Saturday.

"If we can resolve this issue and cancel this meeting then it should be possible to mend the relationship between the Loeffens and Mr. Pitt. If the meeting is to go ahead, however, then we can only advise the Loeffens to continue with this project as planned," LaForet read.

"In other words, if the community is brought in, if local democracy is attempted, local democracy is off the table," LaForet said.

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# INPORT NEWS

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## ourview

### Food bank diet

Close to 70 people in Port Colborne and Wainfleet learned what it's like to live on a diet consisting of nothing but what can be found at local food banks.

Bridges Community Health Centre kicked off the provincial Put Food in the Budget initiative last week, with 26 people coming in and taking home enough food items to eat for three days.

Those foods are non-perishable items such as cereal, powdered milk, canned soup, Kraft Dinner, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and canned fish. Items that people who rely on food banks eat every day.

Participants were asked to limit their diets to those items because it's not often that food banks receive fresh produce, proteins and dairy products.

The food bank diet challenge was held to raise awareness of people who are living on low income or living in poverty and rely on local food banks.

Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges Community Health Centre health promoter, hoped that by raising awareness, those who took part in the challenge, locally and provincially, would approach their local MPs and ask for an increase of \$100 to social assistance rates.

We truly believe that by providing people with the means to purchase healthier foods, which a \$100 increase would allow them to do, it would provide them better access to healthier food, healthier choices and a healthier lifestyle," said Kleinsmith.

She said food in food banks is a Band-Aid solution that helps keep people's stomachs full, but a lot of it is not healthy. Some of the items are very high in sodium and additives.

"For us to live on it for three days is fine, but for somebody to have to live on it in day and out, we can only imagine what that must be like."

Those that took part hoped to gain a better understanding of what items there are in food banks and what people have to eat day-in, day-out, and we'd like to congratulate them.

Locally, MP Malcolm Allen, former MP John Maloney and the mayors of Wainfleet and Port Colborne took part in it and hopefully it gave them, and everyone who took the challenge, some insight into the daily diet of food bank users.

Maybe these current, and former, politicians, can help bring awareness to the issue and pressure their provincial counterparts for an increase in social assistance.

An increase in assistance would help those that use food banks, especially those that have children, buy fresh produce. Children should be brought up on fresh produce and not have to rely completely on food from a can.

We'd encourage anyone to try a food bank diet challenge on their own for three days, to see what it's like for others.

## I'VE BEEN THINKING

# The greatest story

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH  
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

I've made a New Year's resolution. I'm going to read my Bible more.

Shocking isn't it? A pastor who needs to read his Bible more. I read the Bible plenty, but it's for work. I read the Bible when I'm preparing a sermon or a confirmation class lesson and we read from the Bible in worship, but I don't very often just read the Bible for me. So that's what I've resolved to do.

So it's a few weeks into the New Year. How am I doing with my resolution? I don't read the Bible every day, but I do more than I did before. I'm not beating myself up about it. Just because you slip doesn't mean you give up. You can start over and over again and I intend to keep on keeping on.

The Bible is an amazing book, written and assembled by many different people over hundreds of years. It contains ancient mythologies, histories, laws, teachings, prayers, liturgies, love poetry, wisdom literature, prophetic messages, letters, strange visions. There's a whole lot of variety in the various parts of the

Bible.

Some people actually find the Bible frightening and intimidating. That's understandable. The Bible is an old book written by people living in times and places very different from our own. The language and images used aren't contemporary so it can be hard to understand. That's okay, though. You don't have to be an expert to start reading. It's okay to have questions, to be confused by some things.

In our church we've just started a course called "the greatest story." It's an introduction and big-picture overview of the Bible, its story, and how that story connects to our own personal stories and lives. From now until early June we're going to discover what this strange, sometimes frightening and intimidating book is all about.

I've studied the Bible quite a bit over the years, some parts of it more than others, and I always find it fascinating. I've come to the conclusion that it's not a history book like the ones you might read in a history class, it's not a science textbook like the ones you'd read in a biology class. The Bible is a book of faith.

## Readers Views

### Wake up Ontario

**Re: Concerns aired out about proposed wind farm in The Tribune Jan. 13.**

I don't take too much exception to the IPC Energy President refusing to comment on my "junk science." When anyone refuses to answer to reasonable questions it implies they have no credible answers.

And essentially, just for the record, I am not affiliated with Wind Concerns in any way, nor ever have been, although I totally support their efforts in opposing Ontario's insane Green Energy Act. For 10 minutes, last Tuesday evening, the IPC Energy president claimed to be an "expert witness" with regard to skydiving, based on a self-confessed, long jump many years ago in his youth. No court in Canada would have even contemplated asking such ignorance to be accepted as "expert witness" evidence. The IPC Energy president offered no more than "junk science" in his entire presentation.

The wind energy industry claims that inefficient turbines are "reliable, efficient, economical, environmentally friendly and most of all 'green'."

Reliable. The power grid depends on a continuous and steady power supply.

When the wind stops, power can provide zero power. To claim reliability is "junk science."

Efficient. Wind energy is credited, on Ontario government web sites, with having just 3% capacity of Ontario's energy needs. Over any given period wind energy provides less than 1% of that required energy. To claim efficiency is "junk science."

And essentially, if wind energy was worthwhile, contractors would be fighting to invest their own money knowing that in today's environmentalist climate, the Ontario government is based on good science. To demand a 400% markup on their product to ensure their profits? "Junk science."

Environmentally friendly. Each of the turbines planned for Wainfleet will have nearly 3,000 tonnes of concrete poured as its base into our agricultural environment. Once constructed there will be thousands of litres of gear and lubricating oil in continuous motion, 100 metres above our countryside.

An added bit of information. The gears and moving parts have to operate even when the wind stops to continually circulate all the oil. When the wind stops the turbines are powered to continue to turn. "Junk science" pretending

it's a book written by human beings about the relationship between God and humanity, about God's experiences with the Jewish and Christian communities.

I've also come to the conclusion that the Bible is a living book. A good book can be like changing, any good book. The words in the Bible are the living word of God that is life changing and life saving. Martin Luther taught that the Bible is like the manger that held the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The scriptures hold Christ, the living word, God's address to us.

The Bible holds the living Christ who, as the scriptures are read and proclaimed, lives as God's address to us. As we read and hear the words of scripture the Holy Spirit opens our ears and our hearts to help us believe the living word and illusions are shattered, old ways are rejected, new life is born, enemies are reconciled, a family is created, and disciples heed the call to follow Jesus.

That's amazing. It really is the greatest story I just have to keep reminding myself of that and it'll be a lot easier to stick to that New Year's resolution.

to be environmentally friendly.

Green. Gear oil, lubricating oil, towers, blades, all manufactured using fossil fuel byproducts not a single component being green. More "junk science."

Wake up Ontario. You are being

scammed.  
Andrew Watts  
Wainfleet

### Tragic consequences

I can't say I was surprised that something like the shooting in Tucson happened. I just agree with the sheriff who said the hatred, biased vitriolic rhetoric from some on radio and TV has to stop.

I think most people knew whom he was... Fox News, Sun News, the members of the Tea Party, Rush Limbaugh and his conservative talk show ilk and unfortunately a good part of the GOP too.

Palin last March put up a map of U.S. electoral districts where she wanted to get rid Democratic House and Senate representatives. She put these districts in the crosshairs of a gun. Now the Tea Party and certain Canadian conservatives will tell you that's just rhetoric and she wasn't serious about shooting anyone.

see LETTERS page

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■ **SURGERY:** Simple procedure in Bulgaria has given Port woman her life back

# Overcoming multiple sclerosis

She has better balance, she doesn't get tired anymore, her afternoon naps are a thing of the past, and the pain she feels is minimal, if she's even feeling any pain.

And it's all thanks to a one-hour procedure Lorna Parton went through this past November in a Japanese-owned hospital in Sofia, Bulgaria to help her multiple sclerosis (MS) symptoms go away.

Incidentally, I saw Lorna twice in October — once in the home she shares with husband Jim (Boomer) and then a few days later at a fundraiser held for her at the Canadian Corps on West St.

Seeing her last Friday, it's almost impossible to believe the transformation she's gone through.

Forget the cane. When we went outside to shoot the photo to go with this column, she simply got up, went to the back door, and down the outside steps to the backyard pool. That would have been unheard of before the



**George Duma**  
BY GEORGE

procedure.

The only negative aspect to this story is the fact Lorna had to go through what she did for 10 years before finally finding the relief she now has.

"It's so not fair," she says in her living room. "When I realized how simple it is, I just got so angry."

And not for herself.

"It's these young kids, with small children of their own, who have MS. Why do they have to get to the point I was? These young ones, they can't do the things they want to do with their own children. It doesn't have to be like that. Why do they have to suffer like that?"

And she's right. It's difficult for most people to come up with \$15,000 and jump on a plane to Bulgaria. Not that the Partons didn't have help.

In fact, the fundraisers held by their family and friends — and boy, do they have a lot of friends — actually raised enough money to cover all the costs.

Lorna travelled to the European country with her sister Barbara Berrie to undergo what is still considered a fairly new, if not radical, treatment discovered by Italian doctor Paolo Zamboni.

Now in her mid-fifties, Lorna was diagnosed with MS 10 years ago.

"But the doctors said I probably had it much longer than that."

According to Medicine Net, "MS is a disease in which the nerves of the central nervous system (brain and spinal

cord) degenerate. Myelin, which provides a covering or insulation for nerves, improves the conduction of impulses along the nerves and also is important for maintaining the health of the nerves. In multiple sclerosis, inflammation causes the myelin to disappear.

Consequently, the electrical impulses that travel along the nerves decelerate... (they) become slower. In addition, the nerves themselves are damaged. As more and more nerves are affected, a person experiences a progressive interference with functions that are controlled by the nervous system such as vision, speech, walking, writing, and memory."

Zamboni, whose wife was diagnosed with MS in 1995, began his research and found that in more than 90 per cent of people with MS, including his spouse, the veins draining blood from the brain were malformed or blocked. In people without MS, they were not.

When Zamboni performed a simple operation to unclog the veins and get blood flowing normally again, many of the symptoms of MS disappeared. The procedure is similar to angioplasty, in which a catheter is threaded into the groin and up into the arteries, where a balloon is inflated to clear the blockages. His wife, who had the surgery three years ago, has not had an attack since.

And it's this procedure that has given Lorna a new lease on life.

She's back in the Port pool again, swimming at least three times a week with the ability to kick her legs out something she could only dream of doing before.

And that started in Sofia. Lorna had the procedure done on a Thursday, way out of the hospital by Friday morning, morning walking back to her hotel and in the hotel pool by Friday evening. She had to spend three days in the city following the surgery because doctors don't want their patients flying right away. On the Thursday evening, she was relaxing in her private room in the hospital.

see DUMA page 6

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## LETTERS

## FROM PAGE 4

Tea Party members have shown up to many events with loaded guns, some dressed in camouflage outfits, and there have been many who have made threats to use their second amendment rights if the government didn't do things their way.

The injured congresswoman's office had its window smashed after the health-care reform bill was passed.

For too many years both in Canada and the U.S. if you don't agree with someone, many people of all political stripes demonize their opponent, turn them into mortal foes, someone to be "shot down" figuratively and now with Saturday's tragedy, literally. Somewhere we've lost the gentle art of civility where we can disagree with someone's point of view and in some cases we have taken it to dangerous levels.

I worry that Canada and Canadians will become as divided, angry and uncivil as our neighbours to the south.

I hope I'm proven wrong so we don't have incidents in Canada such as that we've just witnessed in Arizona.

Liz Seger  
Port Colborne

# Surgery gave Lorna her life back

## FROM PAGE 5

"I was still in the hospital as they want to keep you under observation overnight. I had sent my sister back to the hotel so she could have dinner before the hotel restaurant closed at 8.

"Around 7, I heard a knock."

Two young women walked into the room, sisters Mira, 21, and Rosie, 24. Both are university students in Sofia and they came to meet Lorna after hearing about her procedure — It turns out Mira plays online chess with a Port Colborne resident.

The three of them hit it off so well, the girls offered to take Lorna and Barbara sightseeing on the Saturday if Lorna felt up to it.

True to their word, they arrived at the hotel Saturday morning with their mother, an associate professor of art history at the local university

and their father, an engineer.

The family spent the entire day with their new Canadian friends, giving them a guided tour of Sofia and the surrounding area. The girls speak English fluently and were translators for their parents.

"We shopped, we went out for lunch; they wouldn't let us pay for anything."

So what's next for Lorna? Simply carrying on with regular maintenance.

There's a cardiovascular thoracic surgeon in Barrie, Dr. Sandy McDonald, Lorna will visit periodically to make sure she stays on track.

"I went up to see him on Dec. 28. He's been to Italy and worked with Dr. Zamboni so he knows his stuff."

And the diagnosis? "Everything's good. Everything is fine."

Now if only Canadian health officials could get



GEORGE DUMA InPort News photo

Lorna Parton will be able to make full use of her backyard pool come the summer. Thanks to a procedure she had done in Bulgaria in November to alleviate her multiple sclerosis symptoms, Lorna is able to fully swim again, including kicking her legs to propel herself, something that was impossible before her surgery.

their heads around the fact this is, indeed, surgery that completely changes how MS sufferers lead their day-to-day lives. Indeed, it has given Lorna her life back.

And now that she's been

to Bulgaria and back and has seen for herself just how easy it all is, it makes her do a slow burn.

"It just makes me even angrier now that not everybody can get it done."

Hopefully, as more folks like Lorna come forward, that will change.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at [gduma@copeco.ca](mailto:gduma@copeco.ca)

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**PORT COLBORNE**

## CITY OF PORT COLBORNE PUBLIC NOTICE

### STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Take Notice that the Council of the City of Port Colborne will hold a Strategic Planning Session on Friday, January 28, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Roselawn Centre, 296 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne.

Council invites and encourages the public to attend the Strategic Planning Session and will engage participants in setting the priorities for the 2010-2014 term of Council and shaping the future beyond this term.

For further information, please contact Robert J. Heil, Chief Administrative Officer at 905-835-2900 ext. 306.

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■ **TIMING:** Work won't be done on time

# Deadline extension sought for Main St. CIP

MARYANNE FIRTH  
inPort News Staff

**PORT COLBORNE** — Port Colborne is patiently waiting to find out if it will face a near \$1-million shortfall for its work on Main St.

The March 31 completion deadline for the city's Olde Humberstone Main St. community improvement plan project is looming, with work unlikely to be finished in time, Mayor Vance Badawey told council last week.

The Federal Economic Development Agency for

Southern Ontario committed \$3,662,450 to the project in April 2010 through the Community Adjustment Fund — with the stipulation work must be completed by March 31, 2011.

While an extension to Oct. 31 has been given to many infrastructure stimulus projects, those receiving CAF funding have not been extended the same courtesy, Badawey said.

The city has requested an extension, he said, with hopes of still receiving the promised federal funding under Canada's Economic

Action Plan.

Work on the Main St. CIP began in August.

A bout 47% of the project has been completed.

Up to Nov. 30, the city had spent \$2,642,598 — including more than \$1.75 million of CAF funding — on construction-related

expenses including contract administration and design costs. The total cost of the project is about \$5.6 million.

There is still more than \$1.9 million of CAF funding the city is eligible to claim, but in order to do that an extension will need to be granted, Badawey said.

A bulk of the remaining work involves paving and sidewalk work, as well as landscaping — all of which require a more temperate climate than the city is now seeing, he said.

Also due to the weather,

asphalt batching plants in the region are closed for the season.

If the project wasn't weather dependent, it would be completed by deadline, he told council.

Work is not expected to continue on the project until temperatures warm in April, said Ron Hanson, the city's director of engineering and operations.

Badawey said it's important the Main St. project is "completed with the intended funding support" so the community is not impacted with the remain-

ing cost.

If the project is not completed in time and the funding falls through, Badawey said the impact would be "devastating to the project and to the municipality."

"We're anticipating some cooperation, though that may not be the case," he said, adding he's optimistic as other municipalities have received the extension.

"Now we wait with patience"

[mfrith@wellandtribune.ca](mailto:mfrith@wellandtribune.ca)

## inPortbriefs

### BIA VOTE RESCHEDULED DUE TO POOR WEATHER

**PORT COLBORNE** — The Downtown Port Colborne Business Improvement Area (BIA) annual general meeting and elections were cancelled Wednesday due to the weather.

"We did not want to risk

poor attendance due to the weather conditions," said board member Mickey Mayne.

She said the meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. on the third floor of city hall.

All businesses and property owners will be notified of the meeting.

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"People with the flu say they feel like they are going to die," says Dr. Claire Pomroy, Chief of Infectious Diseases at the University of Kentucky Medical Centre... "and in fact, people do die!" About 2000 Canadians are killed by the flu each year, although most are elderly or infirm.

because the weather forces people to spend more time indoors with ailing family and colleagues. This closeness increases transmission via direct contact and by coughing and sneezing.

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■ **GENERATOR:** One to power city hall

# Port city hall to become emergency control centre

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Council doesn't want to keep Port Colborne in the dark.

So it was decided that a standby generator be purchased for city hall, allowing the building to act as a control centre during times of emergency.

While it seemed all councillors agreed with the

importance of lighting up the Charlotte St. facility, there was much concern with staff's recommendation to also provide standby power to Guild Hall next door.

In meetings with the city's emergency planning core group, it "became apparent" there are several drawbacks to having city hall as a long-term emergency centre, Ron Hanson, the city's director of

engineering and operations, told councillors Monday night.

"We need a facility for longer term power outages of three to four days to provide meals and temporary housing," Hanson said.

Guild Hall was deemed a fitting solution, he said, as it's right next door and can be powered by the same generator used for city hall if a larger capacity model is purchased.

The cost difference between power ing only city hall and both facilities is more than \$51,000.

Guild Hall would be used mainly to provide food and

shelter for people working at city hall during the emergency and their families, said chief administrative officer Bob Hiel.

Knowing their families are safe would allow emergency responders to remain focused on the task at hand, added Mayor Vance Badawey.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny said she doesn't believe in powering up a building not owned by the city.

The city's emergency centre should be placed where people are most vulnerable, she said, such as Wards 2 and 4 where a majority of the city's low-income housing is located.

She questioned whether local high schools could be used as emergency centres, but was quickly informed by Hanson neither school has a stand-by generator.

Kenny also asked whether the new multi-use sports complex could be used, but

was again told by Hanson the option was removed from consideration because of the high cost.

The recommendation to purchase a generator large enough to power up both city hall and Guild Hall was defeated.

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner put forth a recommendation, which was approved by council, to support the purchasing of a generator to power up city hall at a cost of \$181,926 — under budget from the \$200,000 council approved through debenture for the upgrade in 2010.

[mfirth@weilandtribune.ca](mailto:mfirth@weilandtribune.ca)



Bea Kenny



Ron Bodner



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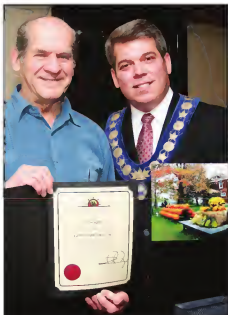
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## ■ CAPTURE THE FALL



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne resident John Ballin was recognized as the winner of the Port Colborne Capture the Fall photo contest during Monday night's city council meeting. Ballin received a certificate for the honour, presented by Mayor Vance Badawey, as well as a \$100 gift card from @27 Restaurant.



## inPortbriefs

### POSITIVE BALLOT RESPONSE

WAINFLEET — Wainfleet had positive response to a special ballot system used in the municipal election in October, township chief administrative

officer Scott Luey told aldermen last week. He said residents who used the system were very happy. "They thought it was the greatest idea ever."

Special ballots were for

people away from the township — university students, seasonal residents, people in hospital, seniors who couldn't get out of their homes to vote or those who could not or did not want to vote at a traditional polling

station. Voters sent in an application to the township with photocopies of identification bearing their signature. A special ballot form with three envelopes — a secrecy envelope containing the ballot, an envelope with the elector's name and a control number, and a return envelope — was



Scott Luey

then sent out. Luey said the numbers for the special ballots were about the same as for proxy votes, about 20,

but he expects the numbers to increase next time around.

### ALDERMEN DROPPED

WAINFLEET — Two aldermen were dropped from the township's committee of adjustment and replaced by residents.

see INPORT BRIEFS page 11

### ■ SOUTHCOAST ADVENTURE PASSPORT



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Winners of Niagara's South Coast Adventure Passport contest — launched by the city and Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce to promote destinations throughout the Port Colborne and Wainfleet area — were awarded their prizes during Monday night's council meeting. Grand prize winner Dave Munro received one night accommodation at Lake Breeze Bed and Breakfast, a \$100 gift certificate for #27 Restaurant and a gift certificate for The Spa Port Colborne. Second-place winner Kaesha Forand received one night accommodation at Talwood Manor Bed and Breakfast and a \$100 gift certificate to The Smokin' Buddha. Fourth place winner Gary Hurst, absent from photo, received two subscriptions for the 2011 Showboat Festival Theatre summer season and a \$100 gift certificate for San Marco's Ristorante. Third-place winner Bill Scott received golf and ride for two at Port Colborne Country Club and a \$100 gift certificate for Canalside Pub & Eatery. Pictured from left are Munro, chamber president Mike Sloat, Forand, Stephen Thompson, the city's director of economic development, tourism and marketing, Scott and Mayor Vance Badway.

### Which Bill did you work with?



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## inPortbriefs

## FROM PAGE 9

Council made the decision to drop its representatives after the makeup of the committee was called into question in late December. At the December meeting, Ald. Ted Hessels said he believed the committee was to be made up of all Wainfleet residents, not three residents and two council members.

At the time, Hessels said the committee, which looks

at minor variances in zoning bylaws, was advertised as consisting of five residents. He had said it seemed council was backtracking on that.

At the meeting, Mayor April Jeffs said since the last meeting council received a lot of community input about the committee makeup.

Hessels asked the mayor if she was looking for names to fill for the two spots and the mayor said yes.

Ald. Richard Dykstra put

forward two candidates and council voted to accept both.

Andrew Watts, who ran for council in the October election, and Lewis Sheddin

were accepted by council and will join fellow committee members Jennifer Turner and Garry Balicki.



April Jeffs

One member of the board just dropped out and will be replaced.

Council also approved members of the library board during the meeting.

Members of that board are Lynn Hunt, Rick Larmet, Michelle Tingey, George Csuka and Aid. David Wyatt.

## MUNICIPAL COMPOSTING IS ON ITS WAY

WAINFLEET — Green bins are coming to Wainfleet. Mayor April Jeffs made

the announcement during her mayor's report at last Tuesday's township council meeting.

Jeffs said the bins, used to collect organic waste, will start being delivered to homes Feb. 7.

She said it's part of a change in Niagara Region's garbage and recycling collection plan, which goes into effect on Feb. 28 and will be for residents living in single-family homes and apartments (two to six units).

## SINGERS NEEDED

WAINFLEET — The township is looking for singers.

Mayor April Jeffs said singers are needed to sing the national anthem before the start of each council meeting, which are held every two weeks.

"We're hoping people can spread the word," she said. Interested people can contact township hall at 905-899-3463.

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### ■ TECHNOLOGY: Proven systems

# Dome pitch falls on deaf ears at Port council

MARYANNE FIRTH  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — John Mitchell has been working hard to dig up dirt on domes.

The Port Colborne resident has been doing his research and has made several presentations to council with hopes monolithic dome technology would be considered a viable option for the city's new multi-use sports complex.

Despite stepping before

council again last week, alongside vice-president of Great Lakes Dome Co., there was no further discussion from the group on the issue.

Mayor Vance Badewey told InPort News that council made it "very clear" the last time a presentation was given on the monolithic dome technology that plans were to proceed in the already established direction with the project.

Council took "no new

stand" during last week's meeting, "staying consistent with the direction of the past council with respect to the design of the building," he said.

The vice-president of Great Lakes Dome Co., who spoke on behalf of a consortium of dome builders, said the "proven system" has "enormous strength and longevity and excellent low maintenance characteristics."

"If people were properly

informed, the citizens of Port Colborne would surely endorse a thorough evaluation of this innovative building system," Collin MacLeod told council.

There is no other option in the "conventional realm of construction processes" that offers the benefits of the dome building system, he said.

Mitchell said local materials and local labour would be used for the project, meaning the company would "pump at least 60% of the shell costs back into the immediate local economy."

In March 2010, the city was given information on the shell costs for a three-dome configuration totalling just over \$17 million, Mitchell said. That means more than \$10.2 million would make it's way back into the city's economy, he told council.

"This is a politician's dream come true. A dollar boost to the local economy, providing jobs at the same time and all combined with the superior attributes of monolithic dome technology. You simply can't go wrong."

MacLeod said it would be both "inefficient and economically unwise" to "transport the construction materials into the city. It's also "unnecessary to import the labour force" for the project, he added.

"This immediate economic return is often overlooked during the planning stages of such large-scale projects, but should never be underestimated," he said.

see DOMÉ page 13

## RECIPE of the Week

January 21th to February 3rd, 2011

### Honey Sesame Granola

1. Combine Oats, Sesame Seeds, Coconut & Sliced Almonds in a shallow 2 quart microwave-safe baking dish.
2. Stir remaining ingredients in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Microwave, uncovered for 4 minutes on HIGH (1000W) until bubbly and syrup-like. Pour over oat mixture. Stir until oat mixture is completely coated. Microwave, uncovered for 4 minutes more on HIGH. Then stir, slightly. Microwave for an additional 6 to 7 minutes on HIGH, stir every 2 minutes, until toasted. Turn out & spread onto a large parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Completely cool. Break into pieces. Makes (1.25 Litres) about 5 cups.

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1. 2 cups Quick Pilsa Oats (do not use Oats Oats)
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- 1/4 cup Sweetened Coconut
- 1/3 cup Sliced Almonds, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup cooking oil
- 1/4 cup Liquid Honey
- 1/4 cup corn syrup
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 tsp. Salt

\* If you prefer larger pieces, push toasted oat mixture into a parchment paper-lined 9x13 inch pan. Completely cool. Turn out, remove & discard parchment paper. Break into bite size pieces.

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## ■ WAINFLEET: Pelham men arrested

## Meth lab found in Wainfleet barn

InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Niagara Regional Police arrested two Pelham men after uncovering a laboratory for producing methamphetamine set up in a barn in Wainfleet.

Police executed a search warrant at 8501/4 Creek Rd. in Wainfleet and at 49 Foresthill Cres. in Pelham after a five-month investigation that involved police from Niagara and Hamilton, the Ontario Provincial Police's Organized Crime Enforcement Bureau and the Canada Border Services Agency.

Police were still at the farm along with other emergency workers as the lab was dismantled, under the guidance of the OPP's clandestine laboratory investigative response team.

In a news release issued last Sunday, regional police called

the barn "the focal point of a major super clandestine lab."

Access to the area was restricted Sunday and nearby roads were closed to traffic due to the presence of flammable materials, poisonous chemicals, acids and other hazardous substances used in the production of the highly-addictive drug.

Regional police called the dismantling of the lab a "dangerous and hazardous operation and there will be a high presence of police and other emergency services personnel in the immediate area, with restricted access around the area."

Police called in the Wainfleet Fire Department, Niagara's hazardous materials team and Niagara EMS paramedics to assist with dismantling of the lab.

Wainfleet fire Chief Chris Cole said he could not comment on his department's role

in the incident.

Police said the prevalence of the drug has been growing across Canada and its use has been linked to numerous overdoses.

"The partnership and co-operation between the numerous agencies involved will have a significant impact on the criminal methamphetamine market in the Niagara region," police said in the release.

In addition to the meth lab, police seized about 550,000 from the residence in Pelham where they executed their search warrant.

Charged with production of a controlled substance and possession for the purposes of trafficking are James DiBenedetto, 54, and Jason Barr, 37, both of 49 Foresthill Cres., Pelham.

DiBenedetto was also charged with possession of proceeds of crime.

## ■ DOME

## Tender to be issued later this month

FROM PAGE 12

Construction costs are also lessened due to the "simple and rapid method" in which domes are built, MacLeod said, with no overhead cranes required and no large-scale structural steel system to be fabricated and assembled.

The form and permanent membrane of the dome is "essentially the first component to be installed," he said, allowing the construction process to "pro-

ceed quickly and uninterrupted" despite any inclement weather.

MacLeod said one of the most significant advantages to the domes comes "after the building is finished and is in operation."

The energy efficiency of the structures, he said, provides savings of 50% or more for heating and cooling compared to conventional buildings.

The difference in operating costs when the investment is into a low volatility fund would

see the entire cost of the facility covered within a 15- to 20-year period."

Council is expected to continue moving forward with its current design plans for the new complex. Tender for the project is scheduled to be issued later this month, followed by a late February or early March closure. Construction is expected to begin this spring.

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LARRY BOGGIO  
R. PH. B.Sc. B.Pharm.

# Ask Our Pharmacists

## Pinworms



DONNIE EDWARDS  
R. PH. B.Sc. B.Pharm.

In the last few months we have seen a number of people for treatment of Pinworms. This type of infection is fairly common most often found in children five to ten years of age because of poor hand washing and close contact in school. The treatment is simple but some steps need to be followed to help prevent reinfection and spread of this problem.

The most common symptom of this problem is an itchy rectal area. This is caused by tiny eggs deposited around the anus by a female worm. When someone with pinworms scratches their perianal area, eggs may lodge under their fingernails and spread to anything he or she touches. Infested dust, clothing, bedding, or toys can also spread eggs. When someone accidentally ingests these eggs they become infected. Adult females live for approximately three months in a human host. At night they migrate from the rectum to the anus and deposit their eggs. In moist, humid conditions eggs can survive for up to two weeks.

Pinworms do not cause abdominal pain, bloody stools, fevers, or poor appetite. If you have these symptoms you should go to the hospital.

If you suspect your child has pinworms the best way to detect them is the "Scotch tape test". This is best done at night after a few hours of sleep. Wrap a piece of cellophane tape around a tongue depressor sticky side out and press it to the skin around the anus to collect any eggs. Take the tape to the doctor who can look under a microscope to look for pinworm eggs. If you can collect several samples of tape, 90% of cases will be detected.

If one person in the household is diagnosed with pinworms all of the members of the family should be treated for the condition. There are two main types of treatment. The first is Combantrin (taken as a single dose as a liquid or tablet) which is purchased without a prescription. It is dosed based on weight and should not be given to pregnant women or children under one year of age. The second is Vermox. This is a prescription medication also not recommended for pregnant women, or children under two years of age. Both types of treatment may need to be repeated because eggs can survive for a few weeks.

Other steps to take include careful hand washing (including scrubbing under fingernails), especially after using the toilet and before eating. All bedding, clothing and toys need to be washed. Clean underwear and pajamas need to be worn every night. Bathrooms should also be cleaned particularly well to remove eggs.

It is common to become reinfected with pinworms several months after treatment. If this happens the doctor should be contacted and everyone should be retreated.

Pinworms are an annoying, but usually, unserious infection. With proper treatment and care it can be cured. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you suspect you or a family member is infected.

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IMPORT NEWS

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Fill in your ballot for the In Port's Readers Choice Awards. Write the names of your favourite businesses on the line provided. You can vote for as many different types of businesses as you wish in each of the 5 categories. Those merchants and businesses who receive the most votes will win the prestigious Readers Choice Award. The winners will be announced in a special section of the In Port News March 11th, 2011. Watch for our promo! Your ballot is your entry to our cash prize! So fill it out and send it today! The deadline for submission is 5 p.m., Friday, February 25th, 2011.

Limit: One ballot per reader.

Please note: All categories do not have to be fully completed.

\* Non Subscribers win \$50

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Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Contest Rules:

Only original newspaper ballots or hand-drawn illustrations accepted. No mechanical reproductions allowed. Employees of the Tribune, and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners of the Grand Prize will be determined by a random draw from all entries received by 5 p.m., Friday, February 25th, 2011. Winners will be contacted by phone. You do not have to fully complete ballot to win.

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■ **SALARY:** Chair makes less than peers

# No pay hike coming for Niagara regional chair, councillors

MATTHEW VAN DONGEN  
QMI AGENCY

**THOROLD** — Regional councillors aren't ready to give their leader a pay raise.

Not yet, anyway. Regional staff have recommended bumping up the regional chair's salary to \$120,000 from \$113,913 over the next four years, reasoning Niagara's top municipal politician is paid significantly less than his peers.

Councillors at a regional corporate services committee meeting Wednesday put off a decision, however, asking staff to come back in the fall with a more detailed report on compensation for all regional politicians.

Members also declined to change the formula for councillor pay increases.

\*Given that council voted to

institute a pay freeze for this year, I'm wondering if this is the right timing for such a decision," said Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Dave Eke.



David Barrick

New Port Colborne Coun. David Barrick later added he wasn't sure if he "buys the argument" that the regional chair's salary needs to be in the middle of the pack compared to other mayors and chairs.

The staff report listed salaries for the leaders of neighbouring municipal councils like York (\$188,013) and Hamilton (\$118,516).

The report didn't recommend changing the \$27,527 base salary for the part-time councillors, but did suggest simplifying the formula used for annual adjustments.

That also didn't sit well with some councillors, who noted a citizens committee created the formula in 2003.

"If we're going to go back and look at that, we should strike a new (citizens) committee, or at least look at a more detailed range of comparators," said Grimsby Mayor Bob Bentley.

The salaries for all non-unionized regional staff, including politicians, are frozen for 2011.

Finance commissioner Brian Hutchings said staff would come back with a more detailed compensation report in time for the start of 2012 budget deliberations, likely in the fall.



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## ■ CHALLENGE: Raising awareness

# Trying to live on a food bank diet

DAVE JOHNSON  
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Close to 70 people learned what it's like to live on a diet consisting of nothing but what can be found at local food banks.

Bridges Community Health Centre kicked off the provincial Put Food in the Budget

initiative last Wednesday afternoon, with 26 teams coming in and taking home enough food items to eat for three days.

"We are one of over 30 communities in the province that are participating in the challenge to try and raise awareness of people who are living on low income or living in poverty and have to

rely on food banks," said Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges health promoter.

She said the initiative is to raise awareness of the kinds of food that people typically receive when they do go to a local food bank.

Those foods are non-perishable items such as cereal, powdered milk, canned soup,

Kraft Dinner, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and canned fish.

Participants were asked to limit their diets to those items because it's not often that food banks receive fresh produce, proteins and dairy products.

"The immediate impact we want to make is for par-

ticipants to discuss this with their local MPPs and ask for an increase of \$100 to social assistance rates.

"We truly believe that by providing people with the means to purchase healthier foods, which a \$100 increase would allow them to do, it would provide them better access to healthier food,

healthier choices and a healthier lifestyle."

Kleinsmith said food in food banks is a Band-Aid solution that helps keep people's stomachs full, but a lot of it is not healthy. Some of the items are very high in sodium and additives.

see **FOOD BANK** page 19



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# CHALLENGE

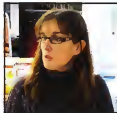


DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Bridges Community Health Centre health promoter Lori Kleinsmith, left, puts a package of rice into a bag for Lisa Bowers and Reuben Young. The couple are two of nearly 70 people who will see what it's like to live on a diet consisting of nothing but what can be found at local food banks.

## Surviving on canned and dried foods

FROM PAGE 13



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Bridges Community Health Centre health promoter Lori Kleinsmith.

Port Colborne resident and Welland riding's federal Liberal candidate John Maloney thought the challenge would be an interesting exercise.

"The food banks in our community are very active and the food people are eating has no fresh produce or fruit. That can be a challenge for a lot of people," said Maloney, who helps out at the Community Christmas Dinner, the Out of the Cold program and annual Lions Food Drive.

James Gillespie, another of the participants, said while the challenge is only three days, it should show him what some people have to eat for their entire lives.

"I figured I could do it for three days and see what it's like to them," Gillespie said. You can't understand what something is like for others if you don't do it for yourself.

While there was enough food for three days, Walters said there wasn't much selection when it came to the non-perishable items available.

"It could be hard to stick to, but I'm going to try,"

Walters said. "I'm going to try."

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